



Remarks for Fourth of July Reception  
Ambassador Noah B. Mamet  
July 4, 2016, 8:00 pm, Palacio San Miguel

Bienvenidos estimados amigos, y gracias por venir esta noche para celebrar juntos el día de independencia de los Estados Unidos. Su presencia hoy es testimonio de la fuerte relación entre Argentina y los Estados Unidos, y en lo personal significa mucho para mí. Es un placer poder compartir con todos ustedes una celebración tan importante para nosotros y espero que lo disfruten!

Le damos una especial bienvenida a todos los Ministros, Gobernadores y otros funcionarios que nos acompañan hoy.

Ahora voy a cambiar a inglés porque será un poco más fácil para mí y mucho mejor para ustedes, se los prometo! Podrán ver el texto traducido en cada pantalla del salón.

Today the United States is celebrating its 240th birthday. This is of course a special occasion, but we're also celebrating a lot more this evening. My July 4 speech last year was full of optimism about the future of U.S.-Argentine relations, but the extent of positive change that has occurred since then has probably exceeded all our expectations.

Under President Macri's leadership, Argentina is back now on the global stage, and our bilateral relations are reaching new heights. President Obama's visit this past March was a historic success - the first presidential visit to Buenos Aires in nearly 20 years. It reaffirmed how much we value Argentina as an important partner in the hemisphere and in the world. It set into motion a wide range of initiatives and an unprecedented number of high-level visitors, to build on our common interests and reach our mutual goals.

Our two leaders agreed to partner on global challenges, such as peacekeeping, refugees, and the defense of human rights and democracy. We've also signed numerous agreements on the economic front to share best practices and provide whatever technical assistance possible to grow our economies, promote small businesses, and support entrepreneurs. Likewise, our law enforcement agencies are working closely to combat organized crime and strengthen security.

At the Embassy, we've recently implemented a new Visa Interview Waiver Program for Argentine youth and seniors, eliminating the need for an interview and making it easier to travel to the U.S. And this is just the first step, as both countries work together to increase travel and tourism, which directly benefits our economies as well as increasing the connection between people.

Such people-to-people contact is critical to increasing connectivity between Argentina and the States and that was the philosophy behind our goal to expand educational exchanges. Last



year we launched the first-of-its kind, public-private scholarship program called the Friends of Fulbright. We partnered with the private sector to send over 50 public school undergraduates to the U.S. for short-term educational exchanges. This has never been done before and this year we will more than double that number.

Just two weeks ago we also signed an agreement to implement President Macri's commitment to add 1,000 new scholarships for teachers, students and researchers to study in the U.S. And I want to thank my friend Minister of Education Bullrich for making that happen. Educational programs like this will help us work together to develop new technologies and deepen our cultural, educational, and professional ties.

Another top priority for our governments is fighting climate change and preserving our planet. That's why our theme tonight is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service. As you can see, we tried to bring a little bit of our parks to this beautiful palacio. I want to thank all our Embassy family members, and so many of our private sector friends for making this historic event possible. And I want to especially thank our lead organizer, Helaina Stein who somehow organized this event while also doing her day job at the Embassy.

Our former president Franklin Roosevelt said, "there is nothing so American as our national parks." These extraordinary places of natural beauty bring together families and visitors from all over the world. This is possible because a few visionary leaders a century ago set aside land to protect these parks for us, and for future generations.

This radical idea caught on, and soon national parks were established worldwide, including here in Argentina. As most of you know, President Obama and his family were fortunate enough to visit Nahuel Huapi in Bariloche, and I visited the area as well during my Siete Lagos motorcycle trip in January. Both the President and I found it to be one of the most beautiful, unique places on earth. [And I'm sure U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt, thought the same on his visit to Bariloche in 1913!]

So I'm very pleased tonight to welcome officials from the Administración de Parques Nacionales de Argentina who are working closely with our Park Service to deepen cooperation. We also have two park rangers from APN, who are stationed in the Scout Room over there (point left).

This environmental cooperation reflects not only a shared love for our parks, but also serious concern about climate change. As President Obama said while in Yosemite National Park ten days ago: "Make no mistake, climate change is no longer just a threat, it's already a reality." Glaciers are receding, droughts like we've had in California for nearly a decade bring raging forest fires, and our international coasts are under threat from rising sea levels.

The good news is that our governments are focused on solutions, especially clean energy. For example last year, more solar energy was installed worldwide than was invested in fossil fuels. And at our Embassy here, I'm proud to say we installed the first solar panels at any embassy in



Argentina. The Macri Administration is working hard to ensure that Argentina takes advantage of its vast wind and solar potential that Argentina has been blessed with and we strongly support those efforts.

In March, I was honored to lead the first trade delegation of Argentine entrepreneurs and government officials to California. They connected with American innovators working in technology, education and renewable energy, and we're already seeing new opportunities stemming from the connections made during that visit.

To finish, I just want to say that I'm extremely proud of what we've accomplished together so far, and I'm excited about reaching new milestones this year. Almost every agency in the U.S. government is collaborating with its Argentine counterpart, and we're fortunate to have such talented and dedicated professionals in both governments. It's why I remain incredibly optimistic about the future and our bi-lateral relationship. Just like it took visionary leaders 100 years ago to create the idea of national parks, it's up to us, now, to be innovative and ambitious and create the positive changes today that will benefit a generation a hundred years from now. Working together, I know we will succeed.

Entonces, quisiera ofrecer un brindis a nuestros dos grandes países: que nuestra larga amistad y nueva re-la-ción nos traiga a todos gran éxito y prosperidad por muchos años. Salud ... y gracias por celebrar con nosotros!